スモーキーB.B.

CHAPTER 5 - 9OUT

原作 小宮山健太 漫画 河田悠治

YESTERDAY
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WHETHER YOU NEED ME OR NOT...
YES... LET'S TRY IT OUT...
COMPARE THE MERITS OF MONEY WITH THOSE OF ABILITY!?
BENTEN'S ROAD RUNNER
IT WAS ME,
I'M KABURAYA CHOUJI
KABURAYA CHOUJI (2ND YEAR)
(NICKNAME: KABUCHOU)
Whee Whee
WHO WAS IT? WHO HONKED JUST NOW!?

IF IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE HIRED BY THE SCHOOL,
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE US ACKNOWLEDGE YOU!?
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ASSESS ME!!
9OUT
9OUT!?
What's that?
IT'S A GAME I OFTEN PLAYED
IT'S A MATCH BETWEEN A PITCHER AND THE BATTERS THAT LASTS ONE INNING.
shake
shake
THE INNING WON'T END WITH 3 OUTS LIKE IT USUALLY DOES.

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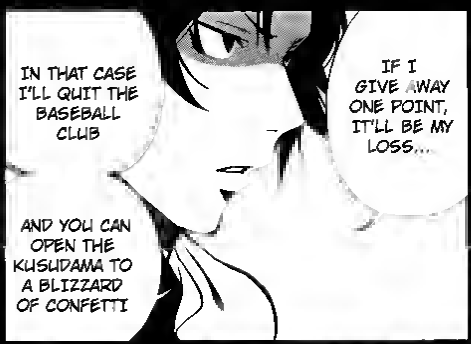
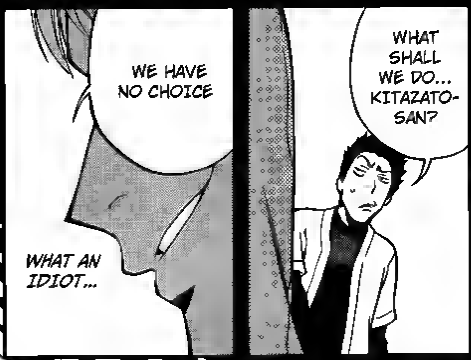

IF I GIVE AWAY ONE POINT, IT'LL BE MY LOSS...
IN THAT CASE I'LL QUIT THE BASEBALL CLUB
AND YOU CAN OPEN THE KUSUDAMA TO A BLIZZARD OF CONFETTI

T/N: KUSUDAMA = AN ORNAMENTAL (SCENTED) BALL (MADE OF IMITATION FLOWERS)



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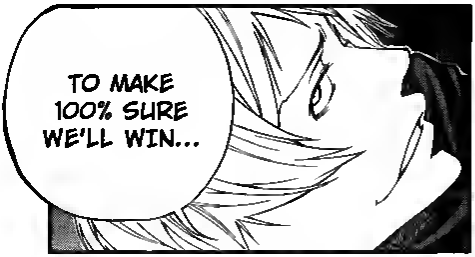

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT
...I'M SORRY, ENJIRO...
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
DON'T DO ANYTHING
ピョピョ
OR DO A VICTORY DANCE HOLDING A BONBON, IF YOU LIKE
FROM HERE ON IT'S MY FIGHT!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AH!
I'M HERE TOO, THOUGH...
THAT JOKE HURTS.
むぐ…
ESCUSE ME, KITAZATO-SAN!! ANYONE WILL DO
BUT AT LEAST LEND US SOME PEOPLE TO BE IN THE FIELD!!
HEY, HEY.

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THAT I'LL SNATCH AWAY THE NUMBER 1 HIS UNIFORM.
THAT GUY IS JUST AFRAID...
FINE, WE WON'T BUNT OR STEAL BASES...
BUT, WELL...
I WOULD GIVE YOU THE NUMBER ONE OF THE FRIENDLESS ANY DAY, HAIMARU
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I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO TAKE OUR SIDE, BUT...
HM!?
HOLD ON.. THEN OUR UMPIRE IS ALSO...

I WISH WE WOULD'VE MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES...
HE'S A GOOD PERSON
yes
PLAY BALL!
UNTIL THE GAME ENDS... I'LL BE A FAIR UMPIRE
I WON'T RESORT TO SUCH SHAMEFUL THINGS
CHIEF UMPIRE SAKAMAKI TSUTOME (3RD YEAR)
THAT BASTARD WHO'S A DISGRACE TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL AMATEUR PLAYERS.
SAKAMAKI-SAN IS TOO NICE~~~
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BY THE WAY, YOU LOOK PRETTY SERIOUS... WHY DO YOU HANG AROUND WITH THAT GUY!?
I WILL GIVE THEM A TASTE OF THIS IRON HAMMER
AH... ABOUT THAT

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DO YOUR JOB... UMPIRE.
WELL...
STRIKE!
THAT GUY'S REALLY INTO THIS.
OH!
DAMN, I DIDN'T GET THE TIMING RIGHT.
A 1ST YEAR SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO THROW SUCH A BALL!
...WHAT WAS THAT?
SO MAKINO DIDN'T LIE AFTER ALL.
HE'S A SMOKEY GUY, HUH?
BENTEN

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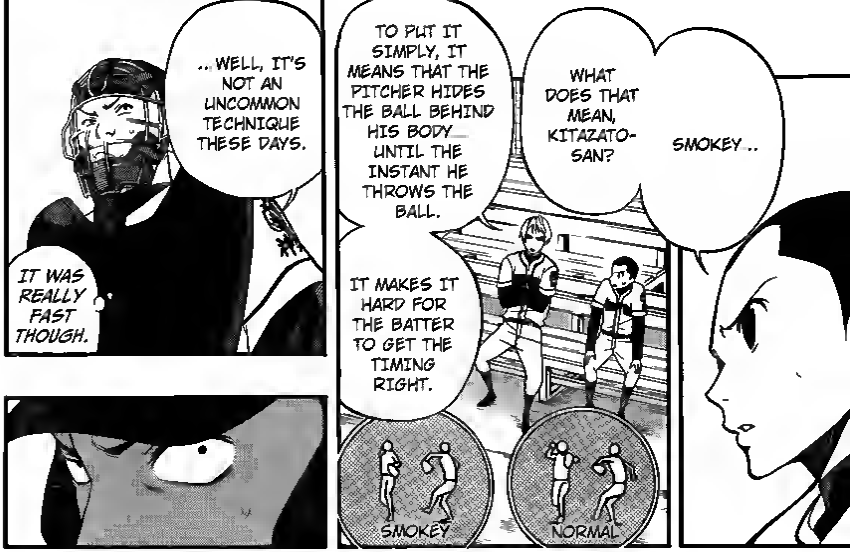
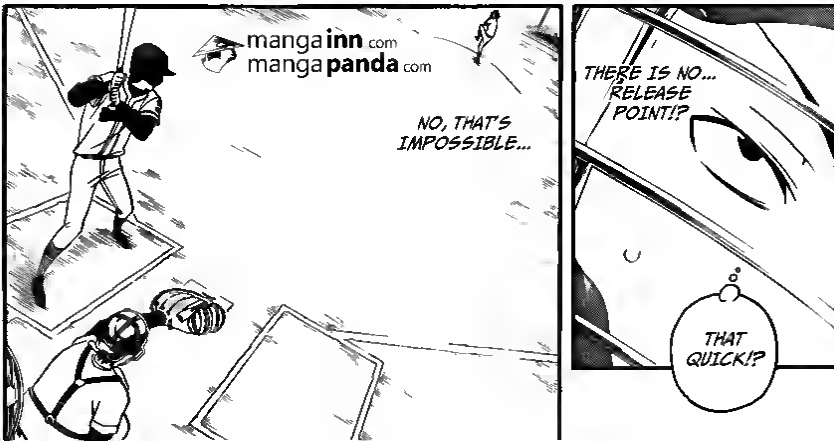

...WELL, IT'S NOT AN UNCOMMON TECHNIQUE THESE DAYS.
IT WAS REALLY FAST THOUGH.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT MEANS THAT THE PITCHER HIDES THE BALL BEHIND HIS BODY UNTIL THE INSTANT HE THROWS THE BALL.
IT MAKES IT HARD FOR THE BATTER TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT.
SMOKEY
NORMAL
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, KITAZATO-SAN?
SMOKEY ..

IT FEELS LIKE THERE IS NO RELEASE POINT...
BUT SAKAMAKI-SAN, EVEN THOUGH HE HIDES THE BALL UNTIL THE INSTANT HE MAKES THE THROW...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NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
THERE IS NO... RELEASE POINT!?
THAT QUICK!?

HE HIDES THE BALL REALLY WELL BEHIND HIS BODY.
SURE ENOUGH, HIS FORM IS NEARLY PERFECT!!
WHATEVER PITCHER YOU ARE...
RELEASE POINT
BUT YOU CAN'T THROW IT WHILE IT'S HIDDEN.
RIGHT HERE THE BALL SHOULD...
SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE NO VISIBLE RELEASE POINT WHEN YOU THROW THE BALL.
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BE VISIBLE...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN HE LET GO OF THE BALL...
WHEN I SEE IT, IT'S ALREADY RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
CALL.
ST..
STRIKE!!
HE'S REALLY INTO IT...
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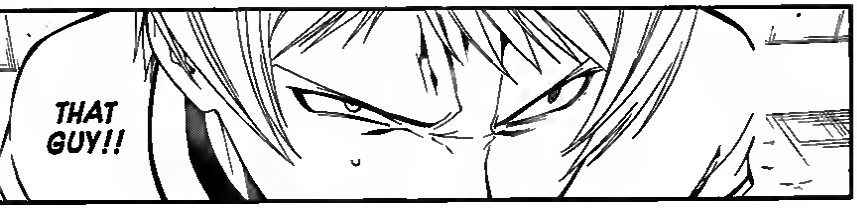

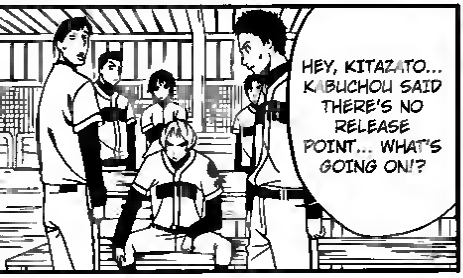

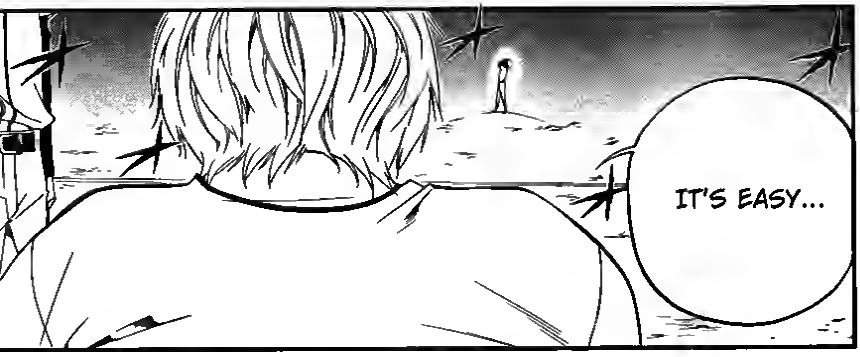

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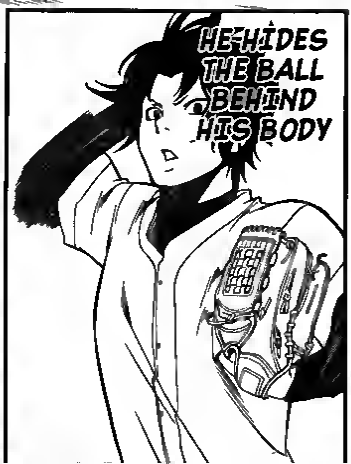

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